

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 29, 2003. Claims 1-10 and 19-22 are pending in this application. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to ensure proper antecedent basis, and claim 22 has been amended to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. These changes do not narrow any claim recitation, and in any event are to clarify the claim language. Claims 1, 7-10, and 19-22 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 5 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Claims 5 and 6 have not been so rewritten because, for the reasons given below, their base claim is believed to be allowable.

As noted above, claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 22 has been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that it conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the point raised in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. Specifically, the phrase "analyzing the plurality of character encoding schemes . . ." has been amended to read --analyzing a plurality of character encoding schemes--. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 7-10, and 19-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,870,084 (*Kanungo et al.*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,546,538 (*Cobbley et al.*). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Applicant submits that *Kanungo et al.* and *Cobbley et al.*, taken separately, or in any permissible combination (if any) does not teach or suggest the present invention as defined in independent claims 1, 7-10, and 19-22.

As discussed previously in the Amendment And Petition For Extension Of Time dated April 22, 2003, the aspect of the present invention set forth in claim 1 is a character-string information output apparatus for outputting character-string information supported by a predetermined character encoding scheme. The character-string information output apparatus comprises search means, extraction means, and character-string information output means. The search means searches, from the external memory, the character-string information having identical contents and supported by the plurality of character encoding schemes, when output of the character-string information is instructed. The extraction means extracts the character encoding scheme interpretable by the character-string information output apparatus from the character encoding schemes supporting the character-string information searched by the search means, and the character-string information output means outputs the character-string information supported by the extracted character encoding scheme.

Among other important features of claim 1 are searching, from the external memory, character-string information having identical contents and supported by the plurality of character encoding schemes and extracting the character encoding scheme that is interpretable by the character-string information output apparatus so as to output the character-string information supported by the character encoding scheme. That is, searching an interpretable character encoding scheme (for example, Shift-JIS) from among the plurality of character encoding schemes (for example Shift-JIS, EUC, and Unicode) representing the character-string information having identical contents, and extracting the character encoding

scheme that is interpretable by the character-string information output apparatus so as to output the character-string information supported by the extracted character encoding scheme.

Kanungo et al. relates to receiving and rendering multi-lingual text on set top boxes of digital television systems. *Kanungo et al.* discusses searching multi-lingual text by font data (glyph). In a case where it is necessary to store and retrieve Unicode characters for languages with a large number of characters, such as Japanese, Chinese, or Korean, the *Kanungo et al.* system uses a glyph set arrangement that employs hashing means.

The *Kanungo et al.* system merely displays character-string information, described only by the Unicode character encoding scheme, using a hash table and font data (glyphs). The Office Action cites column 15, lines 45-55, as disclosing a plurality of character-encoding schemes. The Examiner has equated a plurality of code points or encoding values with a plurality of character encoding schemes. This is incorrect. As discussed at column 1, line 66, to column 2, line 7, a “character encoding” is a system for numerically representing the characters of a character set (group of characters used to represent a particular language or group of languages). The numerical value associated with a given character in a character set is referred to as a “code point” or “encoding value”. An encoding value is the code point for a particular character in a character encoding scheme. This is evident from column 15, lines 49 and 50, which states that the encoding value 174a is the code point for a Unicode character. Thus, a plurality of encoding values in *Kanungo et al.* are merely a plurality of code points for a plurality of Unicode characters, and not a plurality of character encoding schemes. As is evident from the Abstract, the *Kanungo et al.* system is limited to the Unicode character encoding scheme. Applicant submits that nothing has been found, or point out, in *Kanungo et al.* that would teach or suggest searching, from the external memory, character-string information having identical contents and supported by the plurality

of character encoding schemes, and extracting the character encoding scheme that is interpretable by the character-string information output apparatus so as to output the character-string information supported by the character encoding scheme, as recited in claim 1.

For at least the above reason, Applicant submits that claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Kanungo et al.*, taken alone.

Applicant further submits that *Cobbley et al.* fails to remedy the deficiencies of *Kanungo et al.* as prior art. *Cobbley et al.* relates to portable computer devices, and more specifically to a computer system that offloads difficult tasks to larger computational servers using a wireless communication system. Nothing has been found in *Cobbley et al.* that would teach or suggest searching, from the external memory, character-string information having identical contents and supported by the plurality of character encoding schemes, and extracting the character encoding scheme that is interpretable by the character-string information output apparatus so as to output the character-string information supported by the character encoding scheme, as recited in claim 1.

Applicant submits that neither *Kanungo et al.*, *Cobbley et al.*, nor any combination thereof (assuming *arguendo* that any such combination would be permissible) teaches or suggests the character-string information output apparatus as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is clearly patentable over the cited art.

Independent claims 19 and 20 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with claim 1.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in claim 7 is a character-string information output system that includes a character-string information recording apparatus and a character-string information output apparatus. The character-string information recording apparatus comprises analyzing means and recording means. The analyzing means analyzes a plurality of character encoding schemes supporting character-string information having contents identical with contents of inputted character-string information, and the recording means records the character-string information supported by the plurality of the analyzed character encoding schemes in an external memory. The character-string information output apparatus comprises search means, extraction means, and character-string information output means. The search means searches, from the external memory, the character-string information having identical contents and supported by the plurality of character encoding schemes, when output of the character-string information is instructed. The extraction means extracts the character encoding scheme interpretable by the character-string information output apparatus from the character encoding schemes supporting the character-string information searched by the search means, and character-string information output means that outputs the character-string information supported by the extracted character encoding scheme.

Among other important features of claim 7 are (1) recording (storing) character-string information having contents identical with the contents of inputted character-string information supported by the plurality of analyzed character encoding schemes (for example Shift-JIS, EUC, and Unicode) in an external memory, and (2) searching, from the external memory, character-string information having identical contents and supported by the plurality of character encoding schemes, when output of the character-string information is instructed.

As discussed above, in connection with claim 1, the *Kanungo et al.* system is limited to the Unicode character encoding scheme. Accordingly, nothing has been found in *Kanungo et al.* that would teach or suggest recording character-string information having contents identical with the contents of inputted character-string information supported by the plurality of analyzed character encoding schemes in an external memory, as recited in claim 7. Further, for reasons substantially similar to those discussed above, in connection with claim 1, nothing has been found in *Kanungo et al.* that would teach or suggest searching, from the external memory, character-string information having identical contents and supported by the plurality of character encoding schemes, when output of the character-string information is instructed, as recited in claim 7.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 7 is clearly patentable over *Kanungo et al.*, taken alone.

Applicant further submits that *Cobbley et al.* fails to remedy the deficiencies of *Kanungo et al.* as prior art, and that neither *Kanungo et al.*, *Cobbley et al.*, nor any combination thereof (assuming *arguendo* that any such combination would be permissible) teaches or suggests the character-string information output system as recited in claim 7.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claim 7 is clearly patentable over the cited art.

Independent claims 8 and 9 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to system claim 7, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with claim 7. Additionally, independent claims 10, 21, and 22 include the similar feature of recording character-string information having contents identical with the contents of inputted character-string information supported

by the plurality of analyzed character encoding schemes in an external memory, as discussed above in connection with claim 7. Accordingly, claims 10, 21, and 22 are believed to be patentable for reasons substantially similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 7.

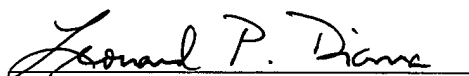
The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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